

the organization's longstanding commitment to the Jewish faith and strong community values. Please join me in congratulating the B'nai Israel community on this milestone one hundred and fifty year anniversary and wishing them many years of future success.

HONORING DORAL PERFORMING ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ACADEMY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doral Performing Arts & Entertainment Academy and to congratulate the school on being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon recipient.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U.S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, and Doral Academy has earned that distinction.

This is quite an accomplishment, and a testament to the commitment the school has shown to educating its students and providing them with the best faculty and resources to succeed. The school has truly taken its mission of preparing students, and instilling in them a belief in their own efficacy, seriously.

Doral Academy opened its doors in 1999, and currently serves 2800 students. Doral Academy believes that engaging families and communities contributes to greater academic achievement and to the improvement of the school as a whole. This model of engagement is predicated on three core beliefs: student achievement increases the more knowledge parents have about their children's school experience; greater involvement of families through non-academic channels still contributes to greater academic buy-in by all; and the more a school invests in a community, the more resources, support networks, and allies are available to bolster the health and vitality of the school holistically.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Doral Performing Arts & Entertainment Academy for their tremendous service to its students and the tireless work of their faculty, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable school.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF VERLEIGH BLOOM

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of a dear lady in our district, Ms. Verleigh M. Bloom, 83, who passed away peacefully on Friday, August 29th.

Verleigh was a genuinely thoughtful and loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, who held onto her family very dearly.

Verleigh cherished the time spent with her loved ones, and considered her family one of her greatest joys and accomplishments.

Preceded in death by parents, James and Verleigh Darnell, Verleigh will continue to live on through the many lives she has touched. Verleigh is survived by her daughter Verleigh I. Gray of Niles, OH; two sons, James C. Bloom of Leavittsburg, OH and Ted E. Bloom of Howland, OH; nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. It gives me great pride to honor the life of Verleigh M. Bloom. I am deeply saddened and I extend my condolences to her entire family. Her loving character and considerate nature will be immeasurably missed. Our community is a much better place because of Verleigh's loving approach to life.

RECOGNIZING PETER LAVALLEE AS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Peter LaVallee, who was honored as the Humboldt Citizen of the Year on October 2, 2014, an award he richly deserves.

Peter LaVallee's long history of public service has been of tremendous benefit to the community. His work as an elected official, as an advocate for youth and vulnerable populations, and as a conservationist has made Peter LaVallee a vital member of my congressional district and the surrounding region.

After attending Wayne State University, Peter LaVallee completed his bachelor's degree in political science at Humboldt State University. He went on to graduate studies at Sacramento State University. Peter LaVallee served as director of youth services for Trinity County from 1980 to 1985. He then spent 26 years as director of Redwood Community Action Agency's Youth Services Division. California Gov. Pete Wilson appointed Peter LaVallee to the State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 1992 and he served until 2000 in that capacity.

Peter LaVallee was mayor of the City of Eureka from 2002 to 2006. During that time, he also was a member of the Eureka Rotary Club. From 2006 to 2011, Peter LaVallee served on the Humboldt County Housing and Homeless Coalition. Among his contributions are the development of services for runaway and homeless youth, including 24-hour crisis intervention, street outreach, school-based prevention and intervention services, short-term emergency shelter and long-term transitional housing and supportive services.

Mr. Speaker, Peter LaVallee's dedication to youth and community services in Humboldt County is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to him.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support and congratulations for the people of Taiwan, who celebrated their National Day on October 10, 2014.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the enduring value of Taiwan's friendship with the United States, and to reaffirm our commitment in Congress to strengthening our nations' ties.

Taiwan stands as an example in the Pacific of what economic and political freedom can bring to a country and its people. Since its founding 103 years ago, Taiwan has established itself as a country dedicated to citizen government and the free exchange of goods and ideas that forms the foundation of any modern and prosperous society. Taiwan has also made significant economic and cultural contributions to the global community, and to peace and stability in the region.

Again I would like to offer my congratulations to the people of Taiwan on their 103rd National Day.

HONORING MATER GARDENS ACADEMY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mater Gardens Academy and to congratulate the school on being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon recipient.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U.S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, and Mater Gardens Academy has earned that distinction.

This is quite an accomplishment, and a testament to the commitment the school has shown to educating its students and providing them with the best faculty and resources to succeed. The school has truly taken its mission of bringing about meaningful achievement enabling students to become confident, life-long learners.

Mater Gardens Academy opened its doors in August 2006 as a K-8 charter school sponsored by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Mater Gardens upholds core values that pave the way for student success: setting high expectations, valuing individuality, expecting accountability, and demonstrating respect, honesty, and integrity. The school has consistently been recognized for outstanding achievement. In 2011 Mater Academy placed sixth in the county on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Science, and has also won the Gold Award from Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 2006 and 2007. In 2012 and 2013 the school was named one of the top 10 schools in Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mater Gardens Academy for their tremendous